
NEWS RELEASE

Judd Gregg

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SENATOR GREGG MARKS CENTENNIAL OF NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM AT LAKE UMBAGOG CELEBRATION

Senator recognized as "Rough Rider" for support of Land and Water Conservation Fund

ERROL, N.H. -- U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) today celebrated the centennial of the National Wildlife Refuge System by visiting the Lake Umbagog Wildlife Refuge, designated as such while he was Governor of New Hampshire in 1991, and for which he has secured over \$11 million in federal funding. With that funding, the Umbagog Refuge has grown from 16,000 to 17,300 acres and is a critical nesting habitat for threatened and endangered species. At today's event at Potter Farm (the original 128-acre parcel of land for the Refuge), the Americans for our Heritage and Recreation honored Senator Gregg with its "Rough Rider" award (in recognition of President Theodore Roosevelt's creation of the National Wildlife Refuge program) for his strong support of the Land and Water Conservation fund, a federal program that provides funding through the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service and the Forest Service to acquire and preserve recreational lands. In New Hampshire, Senator Gregg has secured LWCF funding for the Silvio O. Conte Wildlife Refuge, a watershed of the Connecticut River; the Great Bay National Estuary, the Lamprey River in Durham and Epping; Bretton Woods; Lake Tarleton in Warren; Pond of Safety in Randolph and Jefferson; and Pondicherry in Jefferson and Whitefield. Celebrants also sealed a time capsule, including a well-worn hiking boot donated by Senator Gregg.

Senator Gregg stated, "President Theodore Roosevelt began the National Wildlife Refuge System in 1903 by protecting a five-acre island off the coast of Florida. Today, the Refuge system encompasses over 95 million acres, many of which, I am proud to say, encompass some of our state's most pristine natural beauty, stretching from our seashore to the Connecticut River to the tremendous Lake Umbagog Wildlife Refuge which we celebrate today.

"The Lake Umbagog Refuge truly exemplifies why the Land and Water Conservation Fund is such a worthwhile program. Not only does the federal funding guarantee the protection of the land for generations to follow, but it engages local residents in the many recreational opportunities, such as hiking and fishing, that this beautiful land has to offer. Due to the steadfast support and care of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, conservation partners, and numerous dedicated volunteers, the Lake Umbagog Wildlife Refuge boasts some of the most scenic land in our state and is home to bald eagles, loons, osprey, moose, and a variety of special wildlife. I am honored to be here today to celebrate the preservation of such beautiful natural land and thank the Americans for Heritage and Recreation for this recognition."

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David Houghton, field office director for the Trust for Public Land, stated, "Senator Gregg

is a true leader in the conservation arena. His hard work over many years has made the conservation of Lake Umbagog's shoreline and surrounding land possible, bringing more than \$12 million to the effort over several years. It is one of several outstanding conservation campaigns that he has helped spearhead throughout his career in New Hampshire."

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